

REMARKS

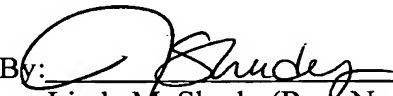
This Preliminary Amendment cancels without prejudice original claims 1 to 26 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP2004/050436. This Preliminary Amendment adds new claims 27 to 52. The new claims are believed to conform to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP2004/050436 includes a Declaration of Non-Establishment of International Search Report, dated July 6, 2004. The Declaration of Non-Establishment of International Search Report (in the English language) accompanies this Preliminary Amendment.

Applicants assert that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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